



# U.S. Marine Corps Advanced Combat Vehicle Crewman's Helmet (USMC-ACVCH)

## Overview:

The U.S. Marine Corps **Advanced Combat Vehicle Crewman's Helmet (USMC-ACVCH)** is used by the entire USMC Combat Vehicle Crewman (CVC) fleet. The USMC program was initiated in 1992. The Modified Non-Development Item Program was not joint with Army due to requirements differences. Extensive concept evaluations were conducted with early prototypes at 29 Palms, Camp Pendleton, Camp LeJuene, Aberdeen Proving Grounds, the National Training Center, and Fort Knox.

## Description:

The USMC-ACVCH Ballistic Shell has protection level equal to the current infantry helmet and has the configuration of the standard CVC shell. The helmet design incorporates an electronic "Talk Through" communications capability with passive hearing protection incorporated into the standard communications headset for vehicle intercom and squad radios. The helmet also features an improved modular pad suspension system with interchangeable Velcro sizing pads for comfort and bump protection with optional faceguard attachment.

## Status:

The USMC conducted successful Developmental and Operational Testing from 1996-1997. A performance based production contract RFP was prepared and released, and after a long and complicated down selection process, SBCCOM Acquisition Directorate awarded a production contract to Specialty Plastics Inc. at the end of 1QTR1998. An Award Protest was submitted 2QTR1998 and a Stop Work Order was issued. SBCCOM Acquisition Directorate and NSC successfully defended the GAO level contract protest. The Program delay was 120 days. The Stop Work Order was lifted 4QTR 1998 and Low Rate Initial Production (LRIP) system evaluations were initiated and accepted. Final Production Award and USMC MS-C occurred 1QTR99. Complete fielding to the USMC CVC fleet of 11,320 helmet systems was initiated in 2QTR1999. Half way through fielding, production item deficiencies were identified in the fleet, fielding was put on hold, deficient items were replaced/repared under helmet warranty, production line modifications were put in-place and fielding completed by end of 4QTR99. Due to additional item deficiencies identified by the fleet, emergency spare parts were procured and fielded through SBCCOM, Natick, while transitioning sustainment contract to DLA. Currently, sustainment parts are being procured through DLA, both Philadelphia (S9T) and Columbus (S9E). Currently working a P3I program that is looking at new lighter weight ballistic material, improved suspensions systems and improved communications headsets and wireless integration with the newly fielded USMC ISR.

## Point Of Contact:

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